



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,505	11/26/2003	Dale G. Swan	SRM0006/US	8953
72870	7590	11/16/2009	EXAMINER	
Kagan Binder, PLLC 221 Main Street North Suite 200 Stillwater, MN 55082			NAFF, DAVID M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	1657		
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	11/16/2009 PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/723,505	Applicant(s) SWAN ET AL.
	Examiner David M. Naff	Art Unit 1657

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2009.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11, 14-21, 28-32 and 34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-11, 14-21, 28-32 and 34 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/06)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

An amendment of 6/22/09 canceled claim 33 and added new claim 34.

Claims examined on the merits are 1-11, 14-21, 28-32 and 34, which are all claims in the application.

5 ***Claim Objections***

Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: the claim is dependent on cancelled claim 13. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-11, 14-21, 28-32 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being 10 unpatentable over Chudzik et al (7,094,418 B2) or Hubbell et al (5,529,914) or Hubbell et al (6,258,870 B1) in view of Scharp et al (7,427,415), and if necessary in further view of Sawhney et al (6,217,894).

The claims are drawn to a composition comprising a polymerization accelerator comprising a biocompatible functional group, a carbonyl group, and an N-vinyl group, and a 15 polymerizable material, wherein the accelerator increases the rate of the polymerizable material becoming incorporated into a polymerized product in a polymerization reaction. The functional group can be a sulfonate group.

Chudzik et al disclose a composition containing a cross-linkable macromer and an accelerator, which can be N-vinyl caprolactam (col 11, line 14).

20 Hubbell et al ('914) and ('870) disclose a method involving combining a macromer with a photoinitiator and a polymerization accelerator, and polymerizing the macromer. For example, see claims 1, 67 and 68 of Hubbell et al ('914) and claims 1, 30 and 31 of Hubbell et al ('870) where the accelerator is N-vinyl pyrrolidinone.

Scharp et al disclose carrying out polymerization with a solution containing an ethenically unsaturated PEG and a sulfonated co-monomer (col 12, lines 52-65). Preferably, an accelerator is present which can be N-vinyl carpolactam or N-vinyl pyrrolidinone (col 13, lines 7-12). Incorporating a sulfonic acid group to the accelerator can improve biocompatibility of the final 5 product.

Sawhney et al disclose that co-monomers such as N-vinyl carpolactam and N-vinyl pyrrolidinone can also act as accelerators when carrying out polymerization (col 11, lines 38-43).

It would have been obvious to provide the N-vinyl carpolactam or N-vinyl pyrrolidinone 10 polymerization accelerator used by Chudzik et al or Hubbell et al ('914) or Hubbell et al ('870) with a sulfonate group to improve biocompatibility as suggested by Scharp et al disclosing polymerization using a sulfonated co-monomer, and that incorporating a sulfonic acid group to an accelerator, which can be N-vinyl carpolactam or N-vinyl pyrrolidinone, improves 15 biocompatibility. N-vinyl carpolactam or N-vinyl pyrrolidinone contain a carbonyl group and an N-vinyl group. Sawhney et al disclose N-vinyl carpolactam or N-vinyl pyrrolidinone functioning 20 as both a co-monomer and as an accelerator, and if needed would have suggested using N-vinyl carpolactam or N-vinyl pyrrolidinone as both a co-monomer and accelerator. When used as a co-monomer, it would have been obvious to provide the N-vinyl carpolactam or N-vinyl pyrrolidinone with a sulfonate group to provide a sulfonated co-monomer that can also function as an accelerator as suggested by Scharp et al. The conditions of dependent claims would have been obvious from conditions disclosed by the references.

Response to Arguments

The amendment of 6/22/09 urges that Sharp et al is removed as a reference by presenting a 37 CFR 1.131 Declaration containing Exhibits 1-13 showing conceiving and

reducing to practice the invention prior to October, 2002, which is before the earliest filing date of Scharp et al. The amendment urges that references other than Scharp et al do not teach a sulfonate biocompatible functional group. However, the declaration is improper by being signed by only one co-inventor (Dale G, Swan). A 131 Declaration must be signed by all co-inventors 5 unless it is shown that not all co-inventors invented the subject matter of the claims, or it is shown that other joint inventors are not able to sign by being deceased, refuses to sign or is otherwise unavailable. Even if the declaration is signed by less than all joint inventors, the declaration must show completion of the subject matter claimed by all joint inventors. See MPEP 715.04.

10 Event if the declaration is signed by all co-inventors, the declaration does not antedate Scharp et al since the claims are not commensurate in scope with the accelerators shown by the exhibits. Except for claims 11, 32 and 34, the claims do not require a sulfonate group as the biocompatible functional group, and the claims do not require an N-vinyl amide group, carbonyl group and sulfonate group in combination. Additionally, the exhibits do not show using N-vinyl 15 carpolactam or N-vinyl pyrrolidinone as an accelerator, which are disclosed by Scharp et al, and are encompassed by the present claims. See MPEP 715.02.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

20 A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will

be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner
5 should be directed to David M. Naff whose telephone number is 571-272-0920. The examiner
can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Manjunath Rao can be reached on 571-272-0939. The fax phone number for the
organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

10 Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent
Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications
may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished
applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR
system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private
15 PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you
would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the
automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David M. Naff/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1657

20 DMN
11/9/09